

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0401

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0028

FOR VANCE AND LUERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UY

SUBJ: COMMENTS ON WHITE PAPER ON NARCOTICS

REFS: 75 STATE 292160, 75 STATE 292161.

1. I REGRET NOT HAVING COMMENTED ON THE WHITE PAPER ON NARCOTICS SOONER BUT THE EMBASSY STILL HAS NOT RECEIVED A COPY AND THE DEA SAIC ONLY RECENTLY RECEIVED HIS.

2. I AGREE WITH THE THRUST OF AMBASSADOR BREWSTER'S REMARKS ALTHOUGH SOME ASPECTS THEREOF ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT APPLICABLE TO URUGUAY WHICH HAS LITTLE CONSUMPTION OR TRAFFIC, WHICH HAS RATIFIED THE SINGLE CONVENTION, THE AMENDING PROTOCOL AND THE PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION AND WHICH HAS COOPERATED IN TRAINING, INFORMATION, EXPULSION CASES AND IN MODIFYING ITS OWN DRUG LAWS.

3. THE WHITE PAPER COMMENTARY ON SUPPLY AND DEMAND REDUCTIONS STRUCK US AS BEING WELL BALANCED AND WE WELCOME THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL DEMAND REDUCTION. WITH CCINC COOPERATION WE, SOME TIME AGO, TOOK STEPS SIMILAR TO THOSE RECOMMENDED AND WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS. OUR EXPERIENCE SHOWED THAT EVEN VERY LIMITED ASSISTANCE IN HELPING URUGUAY WITH DOMESTIC DEMAND REDUCTION NOT ONLY HAD INTRINSIC VALUE, BUT ALSO EFFECTIVELY
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ELIMINATED CRITICISM THAT THE U.S. WAS INTERESTED EXCLUSIVELY

IN ITS OWN PROBLEM. I BELIEVE THAT THE DIVIDENDS IN CONTINUED COOPERATION FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS WILL BE GREAT. THESE SMALL THINGS, IN THIS CASE A APROGRAM OFFERED BY DR. LARRY BEAR EARLY LAST YEAR, FREQUENTLY HAVE GOOD IMPACT ON LOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS US.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN PARA 4 OF STATE 292161, I ASSUME THAT THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE NEED TO PROTECT INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND THE RIGHTS OF DEFENDANTS WILL CONTINUE WITH LITTLE WE CAN DO ABOUT IT. THERE IS MERIT IN AMBASSADOR BREWSTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON REWARDS, THE NOTIFICATION OF MISSIONS WHEN HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS ARE ARRESTED IN THE U.S. ON NARCOTICS CHARGES AND ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A U.S. CUSTOMS AGENT IN THE AREA. ON REWARDS, URUGUAYAN CUSTOMS AND POLICE OFFICIALS RECEIVE A PERCENTAGE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF SALEABLE CONTRABAND WHICH THEY UNCOVER. SINCE NARCOTICS ARE NORMALLY NOT SALEABLE, THE INCENTIVE FOR THEM TO REALLY LOOK FOR NARCOTICS IS MUCH LESS THAN FOR OTHER CONTRABAND. THE SAIC IS TRYING TO COME UP WITH SOME SORT OF NOMINAL REWARD PROGRAM WHICH DEA MIGHT BE ABLE TO SUPPORT. HE HAS IN MIND THE ESTABLISHMENT BY US OF A NOMINAL REWARD FOR SEIZURES OF COMMERCIAL QUANTITIES OF DRUGS AND SMALL REWARDS BY THE GOU FOR VERY SMALL SEIZURES. HE WOULD HOPE IN THAT WAY TO GET THE GOU COMMITTED TO SOME SUCH REMUNERATION SO WE COULD BACK OUT COMPLETELY AT SOME FUTURE DATE. WITH RESPECT TO A CUSTOMS AGENT AT THE DEA REGIONAL OFFICE, I DO NOT CARE ABOUT LOCATION. HOWEVER, I DO BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE FROM CUSTOMS THOROUGHLY FAMILAR WITH LATIN AMERICA AND CONVERSANT IN SPANISH SHOULD SOMEHOW COVER THE AREA, VISITING URUGUAY, FOR EXAMPLE, ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS. SIRACUSA

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